

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A device is disclosed for separating the epithelial layer of a cornea from
the eye. The device includes a separator having an edge to remove the
epithelial layer as the separator moves across the eye. The edge includes a
thickness thicker than the thickness of at least one epithelial cell and less
thick than the thickness of the epithelial layer. Separation can be performed
mechanically, without the use of chemicals, so that the shape and integrity of
the separated epithelial layer is preserved. The device can also be used with
10 a polymer film that adheres to the epithelial layer to help preserve an integrity
of the epithelial layer.

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